

St. John's Lutheran Church

St. John's Lutheran
209 Broad St. PO Box 203
Montpelier, Ohio 43543
419-485-3736

Paul Gruetter, Pastor
567-201-3455
Philip Sandi, Intern
763-443-1813

stjohnsmontpelier@gmail.com

stjohnsmontpelier.org

December 2021 Newsletter


and
suddenly
there was with
the angel
a multitude of
the heavenly host
praising God
and saying
Glory to God
in the highest, and on earth,
peace, goodwill towards
men
Luke 2
13-14

Shut-Ins and Homebound

Marcella Henry
Hillside Country Living
09876 Co. Rd, 16
Bryan, OH 43506

Myrtle Cook
Evergreen Nursing Home
924 Charlie's Way
Montpelier, OH 43543

Larry Eriksen
Fountain Park, Room #203
1433 N. Main St.
Bryan, OH 43506

Luella Rockey
07949 St. Rt. 107
Montpelier, OH 4354

Serving in Worship during December

Acolytes

5: Olivia Thompson
12: open
19: Olivia Thompson
24: Eve: Anna Burt
26: Jess Hendricks

Lay Readers

5: Ed Kidston
12: Emmi Burt
19: Olivia Thompson
24: Pastor Paul/Intern Philip
26: open

Greeters

5: Doran & Stacy DeMara
12: Jason Luke Family and
Olivia Thompson & Shelby Terry
19: Allyson & Kim Hutchison and
Nathan Thompson Family
24: open
26: open

Advent Wednesday Services, 7:30 pm serving:

Acolytes

. 1: Anna Burt
. 8: Anna Burt
15: Jess Hendricks

December Birthdays

1-Allyson Hutchison
1-Gia Fiser
3-Jackie Elser
3-Turner Lawson
4-Braxton Henry
8-Parker Stump
9 -Glenda Rockey
10-Mandy Taylor
12-Nikki (Gillen) Precord
14-Jodi Fiser
14-Joy Gruetter
15-Stacy DeMara
16-Rylan Baker
17-Heather O' Neal

18-Matt Sloan
19-Brock O' Neal
22-Andy Carlson
22-Staci Dye
25-Greg Lee
26-David Clark
26-David Nailor
27-Ann Whitis
29-Natasha (Rupp)
Humbarger
29-Bailey Lawson
31-Judy Handy
31-Lucas Kidston
31-Jess Hendricks

December Anniversaries

4-Michael and Jackie Elser
5-Donald and Luella Rockey
15-Chase and Hallie Henry
17-Jim and Barb Hulisz
22-Jim and Kay Rockey
27-Zeb and Erinne Stump
31-Matt and Susanne Fredericks
31-Nathan and Mattea Baker

In Sympathy

We extend our Christian sympathy to the family and friends of Liz Lawson. She went home to be with the Lord November 15.

Mary Steinke just left to be with our Lord on December 3.
Arrangements are pending.

Welcome New Members

We want to give a warm welcome to our new official members after they completed the Lutheran Basics class: Brenda Athy, Sally Lemmon, and Brandon Shoup. We also welcome Clay Long by baptism and Larry Poynter by transfer.

2021 Election Results

The following members were elected into office at the Nov. 21, 2021 Congregational Meeting: Deacons- Mike Timbrook, Doran DeMara, Al Henry; Elder-Matthew Luke; Parish Ed.-Kati Burt, Megan Hill, Robin Willson; Trustees-Shawn Hendricks, Bill Hill, and Nathan Baker who volunteered at the congregational meeting. The Financial Budget and ratification of the NALC constitutional amendments were both approved. The remaining 2022 council positions open are Vice President and 1 Elder. Many thanks to all board members going off or coming on for your service.

Christmas Poinsettias

Just a friendly reminder! Many of you still owe for your poinsettia flowers. Cost is \$18 per flower ordered. Please place your payment in the manila "Flower \$" envelope in the church office. Make checks out to: St. John's Lutheran Church. If paying in cash, use the old, windowed white envelopes and write your name and amount.

Advent services:

Prepare your heart for the coming of Jesus, by worshipping on Wednesdays. St. John's has Advent services at 7:30 p.m. on December 1, 8 and 15. Each service will last approximately 30 minutes, with Cantata practice afterwards. Come, Lord Jesus!

Cantata Practices

“Everlasting Light” is the title for our 2021 Christmas Eve Cantata. We will have practices directly after the 10 am church service on Sunday’s, Dec. 5 and 19 for two hours. We will also practice on Wednesday nights after the Advent Service Dec. 1, 8, and 15 for 1 hour.

Christmas Eve Worship

Worship Christ, the new-born King! Christmas Eve worship at St. John’s begins at 9:00 p.m. December 24. The service will feature candles, cantata, and communion. Give thanks to God on this Silent Night, as God brings Joy to the World!

Children’s Christmas program:

Our Sunday School youth will present their program on Sunday, December 19 during the 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. worship services. Come and enjoy a special time to hear our children tell the wonderful news of our Savior’s birth.

Thank You

Luella Rockey wishes to thank Shalom Circle for the many cards they have sent and also the other cards she has received. She really enjoys them.

Red Envelopes

The red envelopes found in the pews are for Pastor Paul and Joy’s Christmas gift. This year we would also like to give Intern Philip a Christmas gift so, if you wish to contribute, please write on the envelope how much you would like to give to Pastor and how much to Philip. Any envelopes not marked will be split evenly between them.

Thank you, Nate Thompson, Church Council President

Worship Service Weather Policy

. Worship services will only be cancelled if Williams County is under a Level 3 snow emergency. Cancellations of other church activities will be decided by the leaders of those activities.

WOTC Program Booklet

The WOTC board members are working on the 2022 booklet and need to know if there are any corrections that need to be changed. Please let the church know either by phone or email. Also, if you are interested in serving on their board, Vice President and Secretary of Community positions are still available



October 23, 2021 General Meeting/ November WOTC Meeting

Present: Robin Willson, Renae Hendricks, Chris Whitis, Bev Purny, and Lexy Robson

It was decided to forgo the reading of last year's minutes.

Treasurer's Balances as of 10/23/2021: Checking: \$8670.28
Funeral Fund \$1,428.53

Brunch was served with ten women attending. Ben Harris and Kaitlyn Tippin spoke on the Youth for Christ program being started in Montpelier. Kaitlyn has been hired to head the program for kids of all ages. They are in need of volunteers to help in meetings with

the kids and donations are always appreciated. Kaitlyn's phone number to volunteer is 419-551-1536 and email ktippin@defyfc.org

The meeting began with devotions given by Robin.

Vice President – No Report

Secretary of Mission -

Mary Bates picked up our kits on 10/1/21. A total of 20 quilts, 15 health kits, 10 flood buckets, 29 lbs. of soap, 66 Bibles, 17 fleece blankets, 30 gift cards and 15 school kits were sent.

Bev thanked Ann Perkey for sewing the school bags used for the School Kits, and we will be continuing the Flood Buckets through the end of October due to the extreme need.

Secretary of Community – The food pantry was contacted. They are doing well, but some staples are always needed such as Salt and Pepper, Stove Top Dressing, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Jam and Jelly.

Old Business –

A request for help making Buckeyes will be put in the bulletin. The selling prices for them will be \$10 for 12 and \$12 for 18. Janice Thompson will ask Tasha Thompson if she will post on FB.

The North Central School, Montpelier School, and the Edon School are being contacted for children's needs to be used for the Women's Christmas Tree Project this year.

New Business -

The 2022 Board Members will be President – Renae Hendricks; VP – open; Secretary - Allyson Hutchison; Treasurer – Kim Hutchison; Secretary of Community – open; and Secretary of Mission – Lexy Robson.

A note will be included in the church bulletin to ask for any Women who would be interested in filling the open spots still remaining for next year, and for women to advise of any changes that need to be made to the Women's Booklet for next year.

Next meeting will be held on 12/5/21.

Respectfully submitted by Lexy Robson.



**St. John's Lutheran Church
Montpelier, OH 43543
Council Meeting Minutes November 14, 2021**

Present: Nathan Thompson, Jim Engels, Lonnie Gillen, Jeanne Willson, Ric Clark, Mike Timbrook, Kent Hutchison, Jim Thompson, Merlin Wright, Kati Burt, Megan Hill, Dale Gearhart, Shawn Hendricks, Pastor Paul Gruetter, Intern Philip Sandi, and guest Anna Burt

- 1. Meeting Called to Order:** President Nathan called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.
- 2. Approve the Agenda:** Motion to approve the November 14, 2021 Agenda made by Mike and seconded by Kati Motion approved.
- 3. Devotions:** Given by Kent for Elders. (Parish Ed. in December)
- 4. Opening Prayer:** Given by Pastor Paul.

5. Approve Minutes of Last Meeting: The October 10, 2021 Church Council Minutes, previously emailed, were read by council members. Motion to approve the October 10, 2021 meeting minutes made by Jim E. and seconded by Dale. Motion approved.

6. Treasurer's Report: Given by Lonnie. **Treasurer Notes – October** (Copies of the October Financial Report are available on the bulletin board near the office and on the table in an orange folder by the front entrance.)

- The Clearing Account collected \$260 for the Gideons and paid out \$260.00. In addition, a plane ticket was purchased for Philip Sandi to fly to Texas for \$184.80 and will be reimbursed by the NALC.
- Transferred \$288.94 from our Mission Fund to reimburse a check written from the General Fund to pay for a portion of a ramp for a member of River of Life Church.
- When asked what was the Clearing Account, Lonnie explained that was created as a new line in the financial statement to show money that comes into the church and then is sent out again. She gave a recent examples of cash donations collected for the Gideons, which were counted and banked, and then a check was sent to them. The church does not keep any money from that offering.
- The Mission Fund for the ramp was approved by Dave Jaessing as the fund had extra money. Dave and Pastor Paul felt we could contribute to a local community mission since we have more than sufficient funds in that account.
- Lonnie also reported she has worked on updating the Memorial Fund and where or what the memorial money should be designated or restricted.

7. Board Reports:

- **Deacons** – given by Mike. Present were Ric and Mike.
- There were 5 Sundays in October. The attendance for the 8:00 a.m. service had an average of 25.5 and the 10:00 a.m. service an average of 72 with a total average of 97 per Sunday. Mike reported that there are still 8 – 10 views on Facebook. Two names have been added for Deacons for the Ballot and will be sent to Jeanne.

- Will start locking the doors again 10 minutes after the 10 a.m. service begins with signs left at the doors.
- Planning for Congregational meeting on Sunday, Nov. 21 and potluck afterwards for about 50 people.
- **Elders** – Given by Kent. Present were Kent, Jim, and Merlin.
 - Set the communion schedule for December will send to Jeanne.
 - Looked at room that will be used for the Prayer Room. We decided to place a table in the room that will hold a Bible, cross, etc., and will either build or purchase a table. Also discussed purchasing partitions to add privacy to the room. Merlin will contact Ann Kidston to gather input from her on the room since it was her idea to utilize the area for prayer.
 - Elders will meet with Pastor Gruetter on Wednesday, November 18, to conduct his annual review.
 - Discussed open Elder positions and possible person(s) to fill the vacancies and forwarded them to Jeanne for the ballot.
- **Parish Education** – Given by Megan. Present were Kati and Megan.
 - Gifts – Kati will purchase: oranges, candy, activities for Christmas gifts given out Dec. 19
 - Advent calendars – Megan will hand these out, but will check to see how many we have left from last year.
 - Christmas Program – will be on December 19th, will ask Shawn Hendricks to do breakfast. We will have cookies and punch. Megan will purchase punch and ask Sue Dewire and Riki Timbrook about making cookies. She will also purchase ball caps for the kids in the program.
 - Early Communion – Parker Stump, Rowen Sanholtz, and Braxton Henry will be participating. Megan will check with Merlin Wright about teaching the class in January and February.
 - Parish Ed is reaching out to youth who haven't come yet this year.
 - The new curriculum for 2022 will be ordered.

- **Trustees** – Given by Dale. Present were Dale, Shawn, Jim, and Lonnie.
 - Discussed the Memorial Fund. Thanks to Lonnie for straightening out the fund and finding some money that the church could use.
 - Postponed doing anything about the carpet until after Christmas.
 - Asked Buffy Beck to clear the parking lots for snow again.
 - The council members will take turns clearing the sidewalks with the Deacons doing December.

8. Pastor’s Report: Given by Pastor Paul.

- For the month of October worship services: 10 Sunday services, 4 sermons, 1 wedding, 1 baptism, and 1 funeral. In person visits: 5 home, 6 office or elsewhere Attended 6 meetings and 11 other events. Taught 11 classes. Assorted other contacts – telephone, Facebook, etc.
- Pastor explained when a person is baptized, they automatically become a member of St. John’s. Clay Long, husband of Lynn Long was baptized. He also stated proposed new members who attended his Lutheran Basics class: Sally Lemmon, Brenda Athy, and Brandon Shoup. Motion to approve new members Sally Lemmon, Brenda Athy, and Brandon Shoup, into St. John’s membership made by Jim T. and seconded by Kent. Motion approved. Motion to receive Larry Poynter for membership by transfer made by Jim E. and seconded by Dale. Motion approved.

Intern Report: Given by Intern Philip Sandi.

- For the month of September: led 4 worship services, preached 4 sermons and taught 4 Sunday School classes “Recipe for Church Growth”. Made 4 visits. Participated in 1 baptism and observed 1 wedding. Attended a North West Ohio NALC District meeting with Pastor.
- Intern Philip shared that he was approved by the NALC Internship Committee to be Pastor and is waiting for a call.

9. Committee Reports: There were no committee reports.

10. Approve All Reports: Motion to approve all the board reports made by Dale and seconded by Mike. Motion approved.

11. Half-Time Prayer: Given by Intern Philip

12. Old Business:

- President Nathan reminded us the Men's Group is sponsoring a BBQ pork chop dinner to support the Building Fund on Saturday December 4 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- He commented that passing the offering plates has improved offering amounts.
- President Nathan reminded to get new information for the voting ballots to the secretary as soon as possible.

13. New Business:

- President Nathan stated the House of Prayer wants to borrow our nativity scene for Old Tyme Holiday Gathering on Saturday, November 20. Motion to approve House of Prayer to borrow our nativity figures on November 20 made by Dale and seconded by Kent. Motion approved.
- Discussion was made about a security system and the trustees will continue to look into this.
- More discussion about keeping the baby Jesus safe in the Nativity scene, but nothing was decided.
- President Nathan stated Joy Gruetter gave him some information about purchasing One License to cover copyright permission on our songs, hymns, and other music. Pastor related that we have a CCLI license for our Praise and Worship service at 8 a.m. that covers those songs we sing, but says Joy thinks we need one for 10 a.m. service which will allow for streaming, especially for choir anthems. Nathan will look into what we need and the cost of what applies to our church.
- Pastor requested vacation from December 27 – January 2. Motion to approve Pastor Paul's request for vacation December 27 – January 2, with January 2 be a part of 2021 vacation, and Intern Philip covering Sunday, January 2 made by Jim E. and seconded by Dale. Motion approved.
- Mike proposed that Christmas Eve service be only one service this year at 9 p.m. Council members all agreed.

- Intern Philip stated he will be preaching at the Montpelier Ministerial Thanksgiving Community service on Sunday, November 21 at Montpelier Church of the Nazarene at 6 p.m. and invited council members to attend.

14. Adjournment: The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.
Next meeting is Dec. 12 at 11:30 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL MEETING Sunday, November 21, 2021

President Nathan Thompson called the meeting to order at 11:08 a.m. following the worship service in the church sanctuary. He spoke a thank you for all the people who are a part of church, whether day to day, or Wednesdays and any other time to make sure this church is successful in Montpelier.

Pastor Paul Gruetter opened with prayer.

Copies of the 2022 proposed church budget, and voting ballots were passed out to the congregation. President Nathan stated that several names have been added since the previous proposed ballots were mailed.

Motion to approve the voting ballots made by Shawn Hendricks and seconded by Ryan Burt. Motion passed by voice vote.

Motion to approve to forgo reading of the November 22, 2020 meeting minutes made by Mary Wright and second by Bill Hill. Motion passed by voice vote.

President Nathan said thanks to all who have served as Council Board members this past year. A special thank you for those who have served and those who are leaving this year. He related that we have some areas to fill and asked for any nominations from the floor to fill the open positions on Church Council for 2022. One is Vice president, an Elder, and a Trustee. Nathan Baker volunteered to be a Trustee. President Nathan asked if anyone would like to serve, please contact Jim Engels, Pastor Paul, or Secretary, Jeanne Willson. Motion to approve the 2022 Slate of Officers made by Dale Gearhart and seconded by Shawn Hendricks.

President Nathan highlighted few changes in the 2022 church budget. One change is on the Other Benevolence line item is added back in this year. An example would be if something comes up in the year such as, someone asking us for a donation during the year that we would want to fund. Since the NALC Convocation is now a two-year event, it has been taken off this year, but will be added in next year. For salaries, Intern's salary is listed as a line item, even though a generous donation has been given to fund this, it still needs to be listed. Pastor Paul is available for Medicare so that lessened the burden on the church and shows a change in his insurance. The treasurer's position is changed with Valerie Steinke doing the day – to – day expenses and Lonnie Gillen, helping as the Trustees felt it was a lot for one person to do. President Nathan talked about how the Trustees have put off some projects that need to be taken care of in maintenance. The carpet needs repair and the windows need repairing. Also, the west parking lot needs replaced, but will be done in 3 stages. When member Sally Taylor questioned how this will all be paid for, Lonnie Gillen explained the fund called Capital or Contingency fund that will be used for this. She has also contacted Memorial recipients to see if anything is not designated that could be used. Motion to approve the 2022 Budget made by Jim Engels and seconded by Dale Gearhart. President Nathan asked the congregational members to mark Yes or No on the Budget on the Voting Ballot. He also reminded members to mark an X for the Slate of Officers

President Nathan asked Pastor Paul to explain about ratifying the NALC Amendments. Pastor Paul explained when the NALC was

founded, they didn't know what to call the districts. We now use the words Mission Districts and Mission Regions, but these names were not actually in the NALC Constitution so will need to be ratified to be used. Motion to ratify NALC Constitutional Amendment 11 made by Shawn Hendricks and seconded by David Jaessing. President Nathan asked the congregational members to mark Yes or No on the Ratification of Constitutional Amendment 11 Voting Ballot and the Deacons will collect them.

While the Ballots were being counted, President Nathan explained about the Building Fund money has now been put into 2 different CD savings accounts to get more interest. Also, Dale Gearhart, Trustee, wanted everyone to understand that how our offerings have been affected by the economy and he appreciates the fact the church employees didn't mind that their salaries were frozen.

President Nathan spoke of his appreciation in everyone's help with the Congregational Meeting and everyone on council. He encouraged someone to be a volunteer to be Vice president next year and invited everyone to go downstairs and enjoy the potluck.

Motion to adjourn the Congregational Meeting made by Mary Wright and seconded by Kent Hutchison. Motion passed by a voice vote.

Everyone stood and said the Lord's Prayer together.

NOTE: After the meeting was adjourned, the results of the 2022 Budget Voting Ballot passed 44 Yes to 1 No. The results of ratifying the NALC Amendments passed 45 yes and 0 No.

A
day
that's
full of
happiness
for you and
yours we pray.
And may gleams
of friendly cheer
melt all your cares
away. With every joy
that hearts could wish to
light the yule log's glow
on faces of the friends you
love, O may their numbers grow.
Let singing voices fill the air and
Christmas bells ring out. Let everyone
with glad accord, a joyful message shout.
Let Christ abide within your heart and
hallow your desire and home
and
may
you
say
with all of us
“God bless us every one.”

Merry Christmas from St. John's staff!